



HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES KOKO HEAD DISTRICT PARK COMMUNITY CENTER 423 KAUMAKANI STREET JUNE 9, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Mary Houghton, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob and Diane Ackerson (general), Foye Chi (tennis), Dean Chu (archery), Elaine Dobashi (President of Hui Ilio), Francis Figueiredo (Council member Charles Djou's Office), Betty C. Goeas (Goeas Field), Lyle Goeas (Goeas Field), Alan Hong (Director of Hanauma Bay Preservation Park), Mary Houghton (Committee Chair, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board), Tim Houghton (Department of Environmental Services), Estelle Hucks (archery), Natalie Iwasa (bike, archery), Sarah Keahi (Koko Crater), Greg Knudsen (Board member, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board), A. Matsuura (tennis), Lester Muraoka (Chair, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board), Maureen Muraoka (all), Van Ohumukini (archery) and Diane, Beverly "Nora" Palenapa (Goeas Field), Sid Quintal (Director of Enterprise Services and Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative), Toni Robinson (Parks Maintenance and Recreation Services), Mike Smith (Regional Director, Department of Parks and Recreation), Carol Syderhoud (Hui Ilio), Jean Tamekazu (tennis), Janice Teramoto (dog park and tennis), Kenneth Teramoto (tennis), Monica Thomas (archery), Kelly and Dave Washino (archery), Mele Welte (Preservation of the Koko Crater Coast), Donna White (Koko Head District Park), Tim Wolf (BMX), Shawn Yuen.

The meeting began with each person telling who he or she is and what project or area they came to discuss.

The Mayor's representative, Sid Quintal, gave an update and a few announcements. He spoke about the Mayor's message of fixing the city infrastructure. There were questions asked and he gave examples. As to the Koko Head Parks projects, he said Goeas Field is scheduled to be done at the end of September and the archery range should be done in August. The committee agreed that we should maintain what we have already. Sid was thanked with applause.

I. Archery Range

At the beginning of the discussion of the archery range concerns, Dr. Mele Welte restated her opposition to the archery range site while saying she supported archery in another location. She articulated her love for the natural environment along the Koko Head area of the coastal highway.

There was a question by some as to the need for this meeting. The need was defined by the concerns raised by the community and some neighborhood board members. The committee proceeded to look at those concerns and brainstorm other concerns. At this time in the meeting Dr. Welte and several of the group to "Preserve the Koko Crater Coast" left the meeting. Some of the concerns were sent by members unable to attend this meeting. Neighborhood Board member Knudsen brought a computer video of the archery range to give everyone a current perspective and Toni Robinson of the Department of Parks and Recreation provided still photos of the archery range. After a discussion each member was given five stickers. They could be affixed to any one concern or divided among the list. The results of this vote are to give the committee and the City and County an idea of what needs to be fixed and the priority of each concern from the view of the members present. The results of the vote were as follows:

Leave the project the way it is got 38 votes.

Replace the fence with a natural barrier got 15 votes.

Close the archery range got 10 votes.

Paint poles green and use a vinyl fence got 6 votes.

Plant kiawe trees and other plants to obscure the fence got 6 votes.

Build berm along the road got 2 votes.

Drop the height of the fence from 6 to 4 feet got 2 votes.

Do we need a fence? Got 0 votes.

Reposition fence inside the berm so not to be seen from the road got 0 votes.

The issue of the fence was seen to need further discussion with the City and County administration from the perspective of was it needed for safety, to satisfy insurance requirements of the archery association or the government. The idea that the fence was needed to keep joy riders off the range didn't factor as a realistic problem.

It would have been ideal to have someone from the Department of Design and Construction attend the meeting but that didn't happen. The committee will follow up to discuss the best options regarding the prioritized concerns and what can be done within the existing contract. The prioritized concerns are not expensive suggestions.

It was suggested that the fence could be used for the dog park if it is not needed at the archery range. That is another matter the committee will address with the Department of Design and Construction.

II. Bike Rack at the Botanical Gardens

Natalie Iwasa described the fun she and her sons have biking around Hawaii Kai and their delight at exploring the Botanical Gardens. She requested the committee consider the possibility of putting a bike rack at the gardens. Carlton Luca of the Botanical Gardens phoned the committee chair to discuss the bike rack but it was too late before the start of this meeting. We will follow up with him as soon as possible. The committee suggested a bike rack could be donated to the city as a way to remember a fellow biker. A bike rack costs about \$500 and it was suggested that scouting groups or other charitable groups or even the job corps might be interested in sponsoring a bike rack to donate to the gardens. It was suggested that the Park and Ride bike rack might be moved to the gardens. The committee will follow up on all of those ideas and report their findings.

III. Tennis Court Surface at Koko Head District Park

The condition of the tennis courts is pot holed at best and players are also buying and installing their own nets. Some discussion was spent upon how the players could begin a partnership with the City and County similar to the one in place with the Hui Ilio dog park organization. That idea percolated among the players and they will discuss the possibility that they could form their own non-profit 501 c (3) group for the purpose of raising money to maintain the courts. The courts are dangerous and a liability. It was suggested the courts could be kept to a standard with the Kilauea tennis courts. They asked if there was a warranty on the current renovated courts at Koko Head District Park. Parks personnel will check into that question. Knudsen offered to see if the Kaiser High School courts are available for community play.

IV. Status Reports

Goeas Field- The Goeas Field project was described by the Goeas family and friends who championed the little keiki field many years ago. During the Vision process Goeas Field was identified as needing leveling, reorientation of the field to keep sun out of players eyes and irrigation. This project is scheduled to be complete this September. Goeas Field supporters have said before and restated at this meeting the need for a comfort station for the keiki as existing facilities are too far away.

V. Dog Park

Hui Ilio President Elaine Dobashi gave a summary of the status of the dog park. For the benefit of the other groups she gave a rundown of a private/public partnership for planning, designing and construction of a project. The dog park is minimally funded in the City and County budget but those funds must be obligated by the end of this year or they will be lost. The dog park needs \$70,000 to do the most essential work. They have several volunteer experts helping with design. It would cost \$50,000 for Board of Water Supply to provide drinkable water so only non-potable water will be available for irrigation. The dog park supporters raised some funds at their second dog walk June 4. At least 300 persons and over 250 canines attended it.

During the progress of the meeting, Committee Chair Houghton was approached by the swimming pool and the BMX Track supporters as to the possibility of private/public partnerships for their projects. Committee Chair Houghton encouraged these groups and the tennis supporters to contact Elaine for more information. If the groups would like to hold a committee meeting to discuss the requirements of a private/public partnership, they can contact Committee Chair Houghton.

VI. Vandalism at the City Parks

Committee Chair Houghton passed around photos of graffiti at the parks provided by a volunteer (anonymous) graffiti fighter. The vandalism occurs even if the park is closed. Discussion included several recent busts by police of young people caught doing graffiti. Several committee members asked how they could get paint to help cover over the damage. They were told to ask Donna White for information about paint and brushes. So far the vandalism of Hawaii Kai parks does not include stealing copper fixtures. Someone suggested a fee be charged of the film makers who use the parks in their productions and the fee be used by the parks for maintenance.

VII. Shooting Range Schedule

Someone approached Committee Chair Houghton asking why the shooting range was closed for three weeks. Toni Robinson said it was done while the archery range was being graded and the berm being put in place. It was totally a safety issue for the contractor's workers.

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

There being no more to discuss, Committee Chair Houghton thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating fully so the committee can continue the wonderful work being done by the people who use our parks. She thanked everyone for bringing the scrumptious food—it looked like everyone found something they enjoyed.

As a sidebar:

Committee Chair Houghton observed that there were community members who chose not to participate in the work of the committee. It is hoped that those individuals will see the value of these meetings and that they will choose to participate more fully in the future.

Future meetings will include the blessing and dedication plans of the Archery Range and Goeas Field and the opportunity to learn how a private/public partnership works as well as issues brought to the attention of the committee.

Submitted by Committee Chair Mary Houghton

Administrative support by K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant